SANDOW AGAINST SAMSON

A Notable Contest for the Title of the Strongest Man in the World.

Bending Rods of Iron With Hands and Teeth and Bursting Wire Ropes.

Breaking the Link of an Iron Chain by Pulling It Asunder With the

Not until 11:30 c'clock on Saturday night did the curtain descend upon the stage at the Aquarium, where for nearly two hours, amid continued scenes of excitement seldom witnessed in a place of entertainment, two rival Samsons contended for the title of "the Strongest Man in the World," says the London Telegraph. That distinction was assumed some weeks ago by Mr. Sam-

do the same "tricks" as he went through. The challenge was accepted by Eugene Sandow, a young German from Koingsberg. Samson had his choice of "tricks." Rush-

son. He offered £500 to any one who could

ing to the wings he produced a number of iron rods varying in thickness from five eighths of an inch to an inch. Throwing them down on the stage with a bang, he intimated that he intended to bend one by striking it on his chest, straighten it by striking it on his arm, bend it once more across his right leg, straighten it again on his arm, and finally bend it with his teeth. The last named proposal seemed to strike Sandow as a novelty, and he and Attila exchanged smiles. Samson selected the thinnest rod, bend it, striking it six times over his chest, and straightened it by the same number of blows on his forearm. He then proceeded to bend it by striking it on his right leg, but after two or three blows the rod broke in two. There were cries that this was done on purpose were cries that this was done on purpose that Sandow might not be able to do it with that Sandow hight not be able to do it with the same piece of iron, but the rival himself did not, judging from his demeanor, partic-ipate in this opinion. Calmly he stood in his corner, while his friends in the audie, ce his corner, while his friends in the audie, ce were shouting advice to him, some in his native German, some in English. Taking a rod of the same size and shape he also bent it by blows over his chest. He next proceeded to straighten it on his arm, but he had much more trouble in this than had Samson, not on account of any lack of strength, but because, unlike his opponent, he had no gloves on, and the rod kept con tinually slipping in his hand. Sometimes the blow fell exactly where it was not wanted, bending it more, instead of obliterating the curve. But he kept hammering on undauntedly. At last a gentleman on the stage took off his kid glove and gave it to Sandow, who put it on and soon completed his "trick."

It was easy to see that Samson's tempera-

It was easy to see that Samson's tempera-ture was rising, "Trick" two was of pre-cisely the same character, only it was done with a rod slightly longer and thicker. Sam-son bent it over the chest, arm and leg, and son bent it over the chest, arm and leg, and straightened it again. Sandow did exactly the same, although it was quite plain that he had not acquired the knack of holding the rod so adroitly as Samson. He straightened it, nevertheless. When he laid it down his rival declared that it was not quite accomplished. Sandow said nothing, but gave the rod another thwack over the arm, and held it up to the audience to show them that it was as straight as a rule.

and held it up to the audience to show them that it was as straight as a rule.

"Trick" three consisted of bursting a wire rope by expanding the lungs. Samson produced two, which he said consisted of thirty strands of wire, intimating at the same time that he selected this number because he "Did not vant to make it so hard for these gentlemen." The judges selected one and ordered Samson to begin. He twisted it tightly round his chest, and after two it tightly round his chest, and after two trials broke it, six or eight inches from the end. The same rope was handed to San-dow. In this feat the whole art consists in dow. In this feat the whole art consists in the twisting. Six inches make a great difference in this respect. In vain did Sandow endeavor to get the proper twist. He could not secure the proper grip, and every time he inflated his chest the grip gave way. Deep silence reigned in the audience. Samson was jubilant—"He can not do it; he not do it," and made appeal to the judges. Sandow said nothing, but exerted himself the more to get the twist on. The sly look he occasionally gave at Samson almost tempted one to believe that he was delaying the one to believe that he was delaying the operation wilfully to make the denoument

operation wilfully to make the denoument the more striking. At any rate, just as Samson was running across to the judges shouting "He can not do it; I claim the trick," he heaved his chest, there was a crack, and the iron rope feil broken. "Trick" five consisted of breaking a link of a chain by pulling it asander with the hands. Here there was an interminable wrangle. Samson insisted upon a particular chain, while Sandow produced one of his own which his backers wished him to use. Finally the trouble was ended by Samson own which his backers wished him to use, Finally the trouble was ended by Samson shouting: "I vill not go on any more," and gathering up his chains, he threw them aside. After more conteoversy, Capt. Molesworth stepped forward and said: "The judges have decided that, as Mr. Samson will not give the lead Mr. Sandow will per-

form some tricks of his own." Then came some real teats of strength.

Mr. Attila ordered a bar of steel tapped with huge circular globes, weighing 150 pounds, to be brought upon the stage. Before dealing with this dead weight sandow came to the middle of the stage, stood bolt upright, then took hold of a full-grown man by the waist with his two hands and lifted him from left to right and from right lifted him from left to right and from right to left without moving any portion of his body save his arms. Next he took the bar with the weights in one hand and lifted it straight above his head four times, letting it drop on each occasion into his other arm. There was unbounded enthusiasm over this. Sandow replaced the weights on the stage and motioned to Samson to do what he had done, but he shook his head. It ought to be said to Samson's credit that he cordially joined in the appiause which this ought to be said to Samson's credit that he cordially joined in the applause which this feat evoked and said: "I give Mr. Sandow credit for his strength. I know him for a long time. I know he is a strong man." Sandow took the weights in one hand once more, and while holding them above his head lay down upon the stage, and them rose up again, holding the bar always in the same position. More cheering. Again he motioned to Samson to do the same, and again the latter declined. A gentleman in the stalls arose and cried, "I will give £50 if Samson does the same." but even this offer did not tempt Sandow's opponent, who did not reply, simply remaining on who did not reply, simply remaining on the stage as a spectator. Sandow suddenly produced a circle of chain, as much the same kind as had been used. Sam-son gave a cry and made a rush to get hold of it. There was a struggle for two or three minutes, Sanson shout-ins all the time, "Let me break the chan first. I want to break the chain first; hi, ah, he cannt break it." But it was not hi, ah, he cannt break it." But it was not Sandow's intention to break the chain in the way Sanson supposed. Sandow put his arms benind his back, and the chain was put around them near the shoulders. Then bending down he seized the bar and weights with one hand, and, as he lifted them above his head, snapped the chain at the same time. Cheering more enthusiastic than ever. "Why does not Samson do that?" asked Sandow. No more feats were attempted, and to wind up the contest Capt. Molesworth said: "Ine decision of the judges is that Mr. Sandow has done every trik."

Sandowis of German extraction, hailing

Sandowis of German extraction, hailing from Kong sberg, where his father carries on a largebusiness as a jeweller and dealer in precious stones and metals. He is a fair type of an educated German studen, and his elder brother is a professor at the Universi-ty of Gottingen. In his early school days he was devoted to all forms of gymnastic ex-

ercises and athletics, but it was only some years ago that he placed himself under the tutelage of "Attilla," and studied the theotutelage of "Attilla," and studied the theory of scientific gymnastics and muscle development under that eminent professor's guidance. He then became an instructor many and gave lessons in the craft to many notable European personages, including sundry "royalties." Personally he is a short, but perfectly built, young man of 22 years of age, with a face of somewhat ancient Greek type, but with the clear blue eves and curling fair hair of a Teuton. When in evening dress there is nothing specially remarkable about this quiet-mannered, good-natured youth, but when he takes off his coat and "prepares for action" the extraordinary development of the arms, shoulders and back muscles is marvellously striking. It is no exaggeration to say that the statue of the "Farnese Hercules" is not more powerfully modelled the manuscles and workers.

exaggeration to say that the statue of the
"Farnese Hercules" is not more powerfully
modelled; the muscles stand out under a
clear white skin in high relief, and suggest
the gnarled roots of oid trees. His development has been obtained entirely under "Attilla's" system, which involved no special
training diet, but a rigid adherence to certain systems of light dum-bell practice.
After the contest was over Sandow and his
teacher visited and were entertained at the After the contest was over Sandow and his teacher visited and were entertained at the Pelican club, where the system of teaching and the results that can be accomplished by it were much discussed by the athletic cognoscenii. Among other feats it is claimed for Sandow that he can support a piano in the air, while the redoubtable "Attilla" likewise in mid-air, discourses sweet music thereon.

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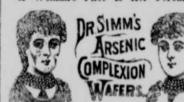
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